

Proposed Decision Tree to Distinguish Synthetic and Non-Synthetic Substances

Underlined items are defined here:

Substance: An element, molecular species, or chemical mixture that possesses a distinct identity (e.g., having a separate Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, Codex International Numbering System (INS) number, or FDA or other agency standard of identity).

Natural source: Naturally occurring mineral, plant, or animal matter used to obtain non-synthetic inputs for organic production or handling.

Naturally occurring biological process: Chemical changes that occur in living cells or due to the action of products of living organisms, such as enzymes.

Extraction: The removal of a substance from a natural source by any chemical (e.g., solvent extraction, chemical precipitation) or physical (e.g., mechanical pressure, centrifugation, heating) manner and with any substance.

Formulation (manufacturing): The manufacture of an agricultural or handling input that is derived from a substance extracted from a natural source or produced by a naturally occurring biological process. Formulation is a synonym for manufacturing as the term is used in the OFPA definition of "synthetic."

